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9	BEFORE THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
11	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
12	In the Matter of the Statement of Issues  Case No. 2013-43
13	Against:
14	STORM THOMAS STATEMENT OF ISSUES
15	STATEMENT OF ISSUES
16	Respondent.
17	
18	Complainant alleges:
19	<u>PARTIES</u>
20	1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN (Complainant) brings this Statement of Issues solely in
21	her official capacity as the Interim Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing,
22	Department of Consumer Affairs.
23	2. On or about June 27, 2011, the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of
24	Consumer Affairs received an application for a Registered Nurse License from Storm Thomas
25	(Respondent). On or about June 21, 2011, Storm Thomas certified under penalty of perjury to the
26	truthfulness of all statements, answers, and representations in the application. The Board denied
27	the application on November 22, 2011.
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STATEMENT OF ISSUES

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 3. This Statement of Issues is brought before the Board of Registered Nursing (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
- 4. Section 2736 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may deny a license when it finds that the applicant has committed any acts constituting grounds for denial of licensure under section 480 of that code.

#### STATUTORY/REGULATION PROVISIONS

5. Section 2761 of the Code states:

"The board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed nurse or deny an application for a certificate or license for any of the following:

- "(a) Unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- "(e) Making or giving any false statement or information in connection with the application for issuance of a certificate or license.
- "(f) Conviction of a felony or of any offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a registered nurse, in which event the record of the conviction shall be conclusive evidence thereof."
  - 6. Section 2762 of the Code states:

"In addition to other acts constituting unprofessional conduct within the meaning of this chapter [the Nursing Practice Act], it is unprofessional conduct for a person licensed under this chapter to do any of the following:

- "(a) Obtain or possess in violation of law, or prescribe, or except as directed by a licensed physician and surgeon, dentist, or podiatrist administer to himself or herself, or furnish or administer to another, any controlled substance as defined in Division 10 (commencing with Section 11000) of the Health and Safety Code or any dangerous drug or dangerous device as defined in Section 4022."
  - 7. Section 480 of the Code states:

- "(a) A board may deny a license regulated by this code on the grounds that the applicant has one of the following:
- "(1) Been convicted of a crime. A conviction within the meaning of this section means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere. Any action that a board is permitted to take following the establishment of a conviction may be taken when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code.
- "(2) Done any act involving dishonesty, fraud, or deceit with the intent to substantially benefit himself or herself or another, or substantially injure another.
- "(3) (A) Done any act that if done by a licentiate of the business or profession in question, would be grounds for suspension or revocation of license.
- "(B) The board may deny a license pursuant to this subdivision only if the crime or act is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which application is made.
- "(c) A board may deny a license regulated by this code on the ground that the applicant knowingly made a false statement of fact required to be revealed in the application for the license."
- 8. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1444, states, in pertinent part, that a conviction or act shall be considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a registered nurse if to a substantial degree it evidences the present or potential unfitness of a registered nurse to practice in a manner consistent with the public health, safety, or welfare.

#### **DRUGS**

9. Crack Cocaine – is a highly addictive powerful stimulant that is derived from powdered cocaine using a simple conversion process. Cocaine (Benzoylmethylecgonine) is a crystalline tropane alkaloid obtained from the leaves of a coca plant. It is a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11055, subdivision (b)(4).

#### FIRST CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

#### (Conviction of Crimes)

- 10. Respondent's application is subject to denial under sections 2736; 480, subdivisions (a)(1), (2), and (3); and 2761, subdivision (f), in that he was convicted of the following crimes that are substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a registered nurse:
- a. On or about November 17, 1992, in San Francisco County Superior Court, Case No. 01415777, entitled *People v. Storm Thomas*, Respondent was convicted by the court for violating Penal Code section 647, subdivision (b) (prostitution). Respondent was required to complete a Diversion Program.
- b. On or about March 21, 2000, in San Francisco County Superior Court, Case No. 01891449, entitled *People v. Storm Thomas*, Respondent was convicted by the court for violating Penal Code section 240 (assault). Respondent was sentenced to three years probation and three days in county jail.

The circumstances of the crime are that on or about December 7, 1999, Respondent learned that his live-in girlfriend wanted to end their relationship. Respondent went to his girlfriend's job and accused her of seeing another man. An argument ensued and Respondent struck his girlfriend in the mouth with an open hand, causing her lip to swell and bleed.

c. On or about March 28, 2005, in Marin County Superior Court, Case No. SC140630A, entitled *People v. Storm, Thomas*, Respondent was convicted by the court on his plea of guilty to violating Health and Safety Code section 11350, subdivision (a) (possession of a controlled substance (crack cocaine)). Entry of judgment was deferred for 24 months, pending successful completion of a Diversion Program.

The circumstances of the crime are that on March 11, 2005, Respondent was stopped by a Marin County Sheriff's Deputy, after he made an unsafe lane change. A search of Respondent's vehicle revealed a glass pipe, small white rocks that tested positive for cocaine, and a white plastic "poker" (used to push the illegal substance into a pipe). Respondent admitted to the Deputy that for the past two years he has driven to Marin City, California to purchase marijuana. Respondent also admitted to the Deputy that he has used cocaine.

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# SECOND CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

#### (Unprofessional Conduct/Possess Controlled Substance)

11. Respondent's application is subject to denial under section 2761, subdivision (a), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct in conjunction with section 2762, subdivision (a), in that Respondent was convicted of a crime involving the possession of a controlled substance (crack cocaine) as set forth in paragraph 10, subparagraph (c), above.

## THIRD CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

## (Unprofessional Conduct)

12. Respondent's application is subject to denial under section 2761, subdivision (a), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, in that on or about December 7, 1999, after Respondent learned that his live-in girlfriend wanted to end their relationship, he went to his girlfriend's job and struck her in the mouth with an open hand. San Francisco Police Department Officer Lee placed Respondent under arrest for inflicting corporal injury on a co-habitee.

## FOURTH CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

# (Committed Acts Which if Done by a Licentiate)

13. Respondent's application is subject to denial under sections 2736, subdivision (a)(3) and 480, subdivision (a)(3), in that Respondent committed acts which if done by a licentiate of the profession would constitute grounds for discipline as set forth in paragraph 10 above. This conduct would constitute grounds for discipline under Code section 2761, subdivision (a) (unprofessional conduct) in conjunction with sections 2761, subdivision (f) (conviction of a substantially related offense), and 2762, subdivision (a) (conviction of a crime involving possession of a controlled substance

#### FIFTH CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

#### (Dishonesty)

14. Respondent's application is subject to denial under sections 2736 and 480, subdivision (c), in that he knowingly made a false statement of fact required to be revealed in the application for licensure, by failing to report that he had been convicted of the crimes set forth in paragraph 10, above.

# 1. 2. DATED: SF2012900662

#### **PRAYER**

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Registered Nursing issue a decision:

Denying the application of Storm Thomas for a Registered Nurse License;

Complainant

2. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

ATED: July 13, 2012

Interim Executive Officer
Board of Registered Nursing
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California